

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

/034 W

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R 211515Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5188

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARIS 27521

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, FR

SUBJECT: ANDRE ROGER, NEWLY-NAMED FRENCH AMBASSADOR
TO VENEZUELA

REF: PARIS 3166 (2/5/75) NOTAL

1. BORN NOVEMBER 11, 1914 AND HOLDING DEGREES IN LAW AND POLITICAL ECONOMY, ANDRE ROGER, AFTER BEING CALLED FROM HIS FIRST POST IN BARCELONA BY THE VICHY GOVERNMENT IN 1943, REFUSED TO RETURN AND REMAINED IN SPAIN FOR ONE YEAR AT THE DISPOSITION OF THE SPANISH RED CROSS IN MADRID. IN 1944 HE BECAME A VICE CONSUL IN THE DELEGATION OF THE PROVISIONAL FRENCH GOVERNMENT IN SPAIN, HOLDING ALL THE WHILE A POST IN THE FRENCH UNDERGROUND. FROM 1945 TO 1947 HE WAS SECOND SECRETARY IN MADRID AND FROM 1947 TO 1949 BACK AT THE CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION. OTHER POSTS INCLUDE BRUSSELS AS FIRST SECRETARY (1949-1952), WARSAW AS SECOND COUNSELOR (1952-1955), BERN AS SECOND COUNSELOR (1955-1959), AND BACK IN THE CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL (1959 TO 1963). AFTER HIS PROMOTION AS HEAD OF THE SAME SERVICE (1964), HE LEFT LATER IN THE SAME YEAR AS CONSUL GENERAL TO GENEVA, WHERE HE REMAINED FOR SIX YEARS. IN 1970 HE WAS NAMED AMBASSADOR TO LAGOS, STAYING THERE UNTIL HIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOMINATION AS AMBASSADOR TO TANANARIVE IN JANUARY 1975.

ROGER IS MARRIED WITH THREE GROWN CHILDREN. HE HAS CONTRIBUTED EXTENSIVELY TO THE ENCYCLOPEDIE POLITIQUE PUBLISHED IN THE BENELUX COUNTRIES AND IS ALSO AN AUTHOR OF NUMEROUS ARTICLES IN THE PRESS.

2. AS REPORTED REFTTEL, ROGER WAS SUPPOSEDLY UNHAPPY AT THE PROSPECT OF SERVING IN A FORMER FRENCH COLONY. HE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED A EUROPEAN OR A MEDITERRANEAN POST, THUS HIS NEW JOB PROBABLY WON'T BRING HIM MUCH MORE PROFESSIONAL SATISFACTION THAN HIS LAST. AMERICAN DIPLOMATS WHO HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH ROGER, ESPECIALLY IN LAGOS, REPORT THAT HE "NEVER PRETENDED TO BE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT LIFE IN LAGOS. HE VACATIONED IN FRANCE WHENEVER POSSIBLE, PARTICULARLY DURING THE WINTER SPORTS SEASON WHEN HE COULD INDULGE HIS PASSION FOR SKIING. WHILE IN NIGERIA, HIS PRINCIPAL RECREATIONS BEYOND SOCIAL EVENTS APPEARED TO BE TENNIS AND WALKING." HE IS REPORTEDLY SEPARATED FROM HIS WIFE AND, WHILE IN LAGOS, WAS IN THE COMPANY OF HIS PRIVATE SECRETARY, MISS CHRISTIANE KIRSCH.

3. ON THE OTHER HAND, ROGER'S LAGOS ASSIGNMENT WAS APPARENTLY A PROFESSIONAL SUCCESS. HE WAS NOT ONLY PRESENT FOR, BUT PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THE PROCESS OF THE RESTORATION OF RELATIVELY NORMAL RELATIONS BETWEEN NIGERIA AND FRANCE WHICH, IN VIEW OF FRENCH SUPPORT FOR BIAFRA, WAS NO MEAN ACHIEVEMENT. BY THE TIME OF HIS DEPARTURE, HE WAS ALLEGEDLY "ONE OF THE BETTER INFORMED MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL DIPLOMATIC CORPS."

4. AMEMBASSY PARIS WOULD APPRECIATE COPY OF WHATEVER INFORMATION TANANARIVE MAY ADD TO THE ABOVE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PARIS27521
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760357-0089
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760937/aaaabfmq.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 PARIS 3166
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <11 AUG 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ANDRE ROGER, NEWLY-NAMED FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO VENEZUELA
TAGS: PDIP, FR, (ROGER, ANDRE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006